

opposite to said first direction through and imbedded in said bores in said plurality of wooden boards, normal to said opposing side surfaces; and

said plurality of wooden boards being held together in compression by said helical pins.

16.(AMENDED) A composite scaffolding plank comprising a plurality of wooden boards held together in compression by a plurality of helical pins, each of said pins having a square cross section.

A MARKUP AND A CLEAN COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS AND CLEAN COPY THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPH ARE ENCLOSED.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 remain in the application.

In regard to claims 1-15 Larsen discloses planks held together by U clamps and notes that in the prior art it was known that planks arranged side by side could be penetrated and held together by a transverse metal rod at the ends. Webster discloses panels made of thin elements held together by a rod. The Webster panels are placed together then drilled and the soft threaded rod inserted after the removal of the drill bit. The present claims now recite that there are at least three bore holes from a first direction and that the helical pins extend from the opposite direction. This is not taught by Webster which merely drills a guide hole for insertion of a soft screw. Similarly compression of the boards during the insertion of the present pins is now a structural limitation of the product. The prior art does not indicate or suggest the boards are under compression at the time of the pinning. Larsen itself does not use any pinning and Webster by using a screw inserted into a predrilled hole would indicate that there is no compression. Again it is the

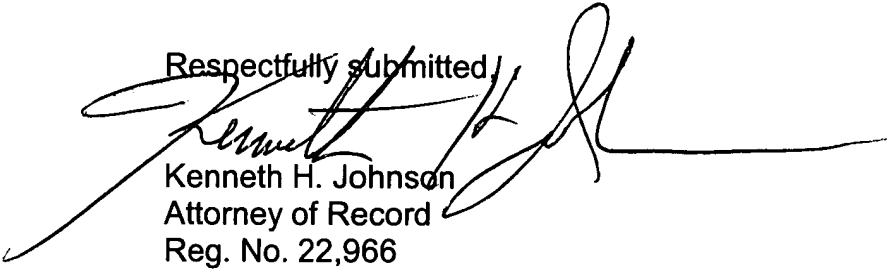
unique manufacturing process of having the drilling of the bore from one side and the insertion of the pin from the other that puts the boards into compression. The present claims now incorporate as structural elements those features that result from the present process that are distinct from the prior art.

Claim 16 now recites that the helical pins have a square cross section. No reference of record suggests this. Webster which was particularly relied on in the prior case discloses only a three-sided cross section and Larsen, the primary reference, has no disclosure on this point and in addition many other defects in regard to the present invention. The description of the square helical pins is set out in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10.

The two declarations from the parent application are enclosed for the examiner's consideration.

It is submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance which is requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth H. Johnson
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 22,966
P.O. Box 630708
Houston, Texas 77263
Tel.: (713) 780-7047
Fax: (713) 780-7671
E-mail: john7820@aol.com

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on 12/26/01.

Kenneth H. J.

10035998-122601
T0922T 866500T

1. (AMENDED) A composite scaffolding plank comprising:

a plurality of wooden boards each having a lengthwise direction, two opposing sides being flat and extending parallel to said lengthwise direction, each of said sides having a height, said height being the smallest dimension of said wooden boards;

said plurality of wooden boards positioned in side to side parallel abutment;

at least three bores extending through said plurality of wooden boards in a first direction;

at least three spaced helical pins extending transversely in a second direction opposite to said first direction through and imbedded in said bores in said plurality of wooden boards, said plurality of wooden boards being under compression, normal to said wooden board sides and normal to said lengthwise direction; and

said plurality of wooden boards being held together in compression by said helical pins.

7.(AMENDED) A composite scaffolding plank comprising:

a plurality of wooden boards;

each said wooden board having a rectangular prism shape;

each said wooden board having a length, a first end surface, a second end surface, a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces;

each said side surface being narrower than said top surface, said top surface having a width equal to a width of said bottom surface;

said plurality of wooden boards positioned with at least one of said side surfaces of each said wooden board in parallel abutment to at least one side surface of another said

wooden board;

said top surfaces of said wooden boards being co-planar;

at least three bores extending through said plurality of wooden boards in a first direction;

at least three spaced helical pins extending transversely in a second direction opposite to said first direction through and imbedded in said bores in said plurality of wooden boards, normal to said opposing side surfaces; and

said plurality of wooden boards being held together in compression by said helical pins.

16.(AMENDED) A composite scaffolding plank comprising a plurality of wooden boards held together in compression by a plurality of helical pins, each of said pins having a square cross section.

100598-12601
T0922T 36500T